

Thesis/  
Reports

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Title: A System Approach to Satisfying the Needs of Special Interest Groups in the National Forests.

Southwest Region (R-3), Gila National Forest, Supervisor's Office

Abstract: This study closely examines the provision of therapeutic and other related services by special organizations in the Gila National Forest through the development of background data supplied by the organizations themselves. Therapeutic services are defined as the building of character and self esteem and/or the altering of certain social behavior through engagement in outdoor challenges. This data provides a basis from which selection of appropriate land areas may be made which meet the objectives of the organization/s providing their specific service.

A procedure is developed for identifying organizational needs and environmental settings and combining these characteristics to fit a land area best suited to those characteristics. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) will form the basis from which suitable land areas will be selected for specific activities. Marketing techniques will be used to determine meaningful organizational data which can be applied to the appropriate environmental settings. Studies generated by the user organizations will be used to supplement data needed to create the best criteria for land area selections.

Those who will find this report useful include recreation officers, district rangers, wilderness resource managers and the organizations providing their specialized services.

Keywords: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum, "wilderness adventures", environmental settings, sociological needs.

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## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: A System Approach to Satisfying the Needs of Special Interest Groups in the National Forests.

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Summary:

**Project Intent:** Numerous organizations offering therapeutic programs are currently operating on the Gila National Forest through Special Use Permits. Most of this use has been accommodated in the Gila Wilderness. Opportunities may exist outside classified wilderness to satisfy organization needs and objectives. This project attempts to identify land areas that will meet organization needs while providing an opportunity for management to locate this type of use in areas best suited to the nature of the activity/s involved, whether in or outside wilderness. Real and potential resource and other visitor conflicts can be avoided and better distribution and utilization realized.

**Methodology:** Various organizations were identified and queried as to their structure, program emphasis, and needs. Land areas outside classified wilderness were identified and mapped using the Forest's Recreation Opportunity Spectrum inventory. Selections were limited to those areas that were classed as Semi-Primitive and Semi-Primitive Motorized. Descriptions were developed (by the Ranger District's involved) for each land area. Finally, land areas that meet the criteria are identified and offered to the organizations for selection in finalizing the Special Use Permit.

**Results:** Initially, it was discovered that the Forest was somewhat remiss by making no attempt to find additional areas that the organizations could use, possibly due to a failure in understanding the organization's needs and objectives. In addition, it was learned that the organization's themselves, prefer to locate outside wilderness for various reasons, but, due to a lack in knowledge of alternatives available, have been silent in expressing their preferences.

In order to respond to these two findings, it was necessary to address the problem from both perspectives by developing a process that represents both parties interests. This was solved by analyzing the land area descriptions against the criteria developed for organization needs and objectives from the query.

The land areas that best meet those criteria are then offered to the applicant as opportunities from which the organization must make a final selection. This final area selection will be incorporated into the finished Special Use Permit.

**Recommendations:** There is a definite need to develop a process that provides management with the opportunity to control and effectively administer the types of activities associated with therapeutic programs. Since this is normally manifested through specialized organizations, it is also important that the needs and objectives of the organizations are understood and addressed. Management and user must have a way to communicate in order to achieve the best overall results.

This process will afford management an opportunity to become more responsive to organizational needs while giving organizations input into the process and a choice at the outcome. Management will be able to expand the land base available for this type of unique use while addressing resource oriented concerns and achieving more equitable distribution/utilization.

It will be necessary for management to identify additional areas suitable for certain types of activities on a recurrent basis. As organizations continue to expand their services or modify their programs, it is equally important that they communicate their changing roles so that management can adjust and respond accordingly. The process developed through this study will provide the needed vehicle through which this can be accomplished.

## II. INTRODUCTION

In the last 10 to 15 years, there has been a great deal of interest and activity by special organizations offering "wilderness adventure" programs to certain groups within our society. Due to the compatibility of forest settings to the basic objectives of these programs, it follows that the National Forests are viewed as desirable locations by organizations to conduct their activities. The term "wilderness", as perceived by these organizations, is not defined in the same context as designated Wilderness. It is the nature of the activities engaged in rather than a true pristine environment that leads to the term "wilderness". Most of the programs offered by the many organizations are designed to be therapeutic in nature. Outdoor skills and activities are used as a means to correct, rehabilitate, or otherwise alter undesirable behavioral traits.

### A. History of Special "wilderness adventure"

Applications for special use permits by organizations offering special programs, predominantly therapeutic in nature, have been on the increase in the Gila National Forest. Almost without exception, these activities have taken place in the Gila or Aldo Leopold Wilderness areas.

The tendency to seek wilderness in order to carry out the various programs offered by the organizations has been more a decision of convenience rather than through a process whereby certain activities are referred to land areas which possess the best achievement potential. As a result, some of the desired results are not fully realized by the organizations. In addition, and readily admitted by some of the organizations, there are times when they would prefer not to be in a wilderness. It is recognized that not all activities engaged in by these organizations are compatible with wilderness philosophies. Former Regional Forester, Southwest Region, M. J. Hassell, defined wilderness philosophy as "A good wilderness philosophy is simply one which favors objectives and actions which tend to preserve or restore congruency to all the elements which make up the wilderness resource (Hassell 1982)." There have been occasions when conflict has resulted between groups participating in programs and the general public. Although minor in scope, these conflicts are real and could be avoided.

Since the organization's emphasis centers on the sociology/psychology of recreation utilizing natural outdoor environments, their needs may vary considerably from the philosophies that drive the management of wilderness resources (Rich Schreyer, 1987). Stated differently, the organizations are not dependent on wilderness in order to achieve their objectives. They have used wilderness traditionally because it exists as a well managed and identifiable unit. Most organizations indicate a willingness to conduct their programs in areas other than wilderness provided the settings offer them the opportunities to carry out their activities.

## B. Study Area

The area that will be studied for suitability to conduct special programs includes existing classified wilderness and those areas within the Forest classified as Semi-Primitive Non Motorized (SP), and Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM) under the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) system.

There are approximately 3,300,000 acres of lands under administration by the Gila National Forest shared by eight Ranger Districts. Of these acres, nearly 800,000 are in Wilderness, approximately 245,000 in (SPM), and an additional 850,000 in (SP) for a total of 1,895,000 acres. As can be seen, this represents nearly two thirds of the Forest and should provide a substantial land base for the identification of areas suitable for conducting special programs.

The Gila National Forest offers tremendous diversity in geology and vegetative regimes. Elevations range from approximately 4,200 feet in the lowlands to over 10,700 feet at the highest elevations. A great deal of the Forest lies in the 8,000 foot range. Vegetative regimes run a full spectrum from lower Sonoran to Sub-Alpine. Topography will vary from rolling desert to very steep and highly dissected uplands.

### III. PURPOSE OF STUDY

The primary purpose of this study is to provide managers with a framework from which therapeutic "wilderness adventure" programs can be matched with land areas best suited to the meeting of the program's objectives. This study will fulfill a number of significant management objectives and directions proposed in the Gila Forest Land Management Plan. In addition, it will allow management to be more responsive to the needs of organizations offering special programs. These objectives are:

"First: Provide a balanced level of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities."

The Forest Land Management Plan calls for providing for a full range of opportunities to the public in balance with other resource objectives and outputs. Many of the areas within the Forest receive little to no recreation use. Utilization of some of these less frequented areas for purposes compatible with resource and user capabilities would meet this objective. This study will identify such areas and provide choices to management in meeting organizational needs.

"Second: Manage the wilderness resource for a quality wilderness experience and to protect and preserve the unique wilderness character of each."

The Gila Wilderness Management Plan calls for development of visitor use capacities for all wilderness area travel zones. The Plan outlines a number of possible use restrictions which include: limiting length of stay, campsite closures, and limitations of visitors to the wilderness. This study will help alleviate problems in these areas. A separate study has been conducted in this area which serves to identify social wilderness use limitations (Scott Steinberg, 1985). The results of that study can be used to determine when a specific area or trail system is becoming overloaded.

Third: Organizations have expressed a desire to utilize lands other than classified wilderness for their activities but are unaware of existing opportunities.

This study will identify where opportunities exist offering a choice in the selection of a preferred area by organizations. By treating the organizations more as a partner, their objectives will be better met as well as benefiting the general public and the resources in and outside the wilderness.

#### IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

Initially, the records on the Gila National Forest were searched for pertinent data relating to the subject. Prior use figures based on Special Uses Permits were gathered and organized. Recreation Information Management (RIM) data covering the past 5 years was gathered to determine trends and distribution of use. Finally, Wilderness Entry Permits (discontinued in 1987) were referenced to provide insight into concentrated use areas.

Contacts were made with Dr. Liz Stefanocs, an independent Psychologist and Kim Roberts, Director of the University New Mexico Health Center to gain some understanding of the structure of Therapeutic organizations. From these contacts, a strategy was developed which formed the basic structuring of the study.

There are numerous publications devoted to subjects related to therapeutic recreation. As a result of conversations with Dr. Stefanocs and Ms Roberts, and due to the nature of the project, the decision was made to go directly to the sources to build the necessary data to be used in the study. Publications dealing with therapeutic recreation are, for the most part, extremely technical in nature and fail to provide the information needed in working directly with needs on the ground. The major source of information came from the organization's themselves.

The State of New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Department provided the 1981 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan For New Mexico which proved valuable in showing the overall recreation needs in the State. A review of literature cited in Hendee's, Stankey's and Lucas' 1978 publication Wilderness Management was helpful in obtaining information sources used in the background history of Wilderness recreation.

The following literature and documents were also used in developing the project: Gila National Forest Land Management Plan and Gila Wilderness Management Plan.

Finally, utilization of the project paper prepared by Scott Steinberg, Gila National Forest from the Utah State University Short Course, 1984, entitled Gila Wilderness Visitor Distribution And Use provided the bulk of information relating to the Gila Wilderness use, trends, impacts, and projections.

## V. METHODOLOGY

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) developed by the Forest Service provides the data base from which land areas will be analyzed for appropriateness for various organizational objectives. The areas to be considered are the classifications that fall under Semi-Primitive Non Motorized (SP) and Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM) in addition to existing wilderness. A list of criteria presented by user organizations will be matched to the land area/s best suited to the range of activities and objectives of each organization's program offering opportunities for greater achievement success. These opportunities will serve two important functions by providing a range of choices to organizations and giving land managers flexibility in locating activities away from high impact areas and distributing use into areas with little to no previous visitation.

The study methodology can be categorized into four phases. The initial phase will consist of developing a detailed map of existing wilderness and the two ROS classifications of SP and SPM. Next, a comprehensive questionnaire will be mailed to selected organizations from which a list of criteria pertinent to organizational needs will be developed. The criteria will be matched with the land area/s that best satisfy those needs and objectives. Finally, management will offer a selection of suitable land areas to the applicant and continue to strengthen the implementation of the program. A detailed framework of the methodology process is outlined below.

Phase One: Development of the Base Map. The base map will be built on a 1/2 inch to the mile standard Forest Recreation map. This map will be retained in the Supervisor's Office, Gila National Forest. Reduced copies at 1/4 inch to the mile have been made a part of this report (Attached, inside back cover).

Step 1. Existing wilderness boundaries will be traced and the interior cross hatched and color coded for ease in identification.

Step 2. ROS areas classified as SP and SPM will be carefully traced and treated in a similar manner as Wilderness.

Step 3. Each land area will be assigned a unique number or identification for future reference, and a brief narrative will be developed (with the exception of the existing wilderness areas) for each area identifying the known outstanding features and characteristics found within. This will form the basis for selection of suitability when matched with the criteria developed from the organizational needs and objectives.

Phase Two: Development of the Criteria. By querying various selected organizations, a comprehensive list of criteria will be developed which will drive the selection of land areas which best meet the needs and objectives of organizations applying for permits to conduct their operations on National Forest lands.

Step 1. A questionnaire will be developed which will ask specific questions of organizations in regards to services offered, settings, level of supervision required, type of clientele, and other pertinent needs.

Step 2. Once the questionnaires have been returned, the results will be analyzed and criteria developed that can be used to measure potential satisfaction on given land areas. Key items will be identified and used as primary determiners.

Phase Three: Matching Organizational Needs to Appropriate Land Areas. This will consist of comparing the criteria against the available land base to identify compatibilities.

Step 1. Each criterion will be addressed and applied against the land areas identified on the Base Map. Each land area will be rated on the basis of whether it fully meets, partially meets, or fails to meet the criteria.

Step 2. Those land areas that either fully meet or partially meet the criteria will be retained and the areas that fail to meet will be dismissed from further consideration. The land areas that remain at the end of the analysis will comprise the final base from which selections will be made and offered to the organizations.

Phase Four: Conclusions and Management Recommendations. The last phase of the study deals with management decisions based on availability and resource driven objectives.

Step 1. Management will offer to an applicant a choice of areas based on management objectives and resource oriented concerns. Management will have the opportunity to spread use to minimize conflicts and to utilize low visitor use areas. These land areas identified and offered to the organization will constitute the only opportunities from which an organization may make their final selection.

Step 2. Management will develop recommendations to further strengthen the implementation of matching suitable land areas to organizational needs.

## VI. ANALYSIS

Traditional use on the Gila National Forest by organizations offering certain programs, generally therapeutic in nature, has been concentrated in the Gila Wilderness. This use has evolved over time in wilderness more as a convenience rather than through any application of a system approach to satisfying needs. The wilderness possesses the necessary attributes to carry out many of the activities engaged in by the various organizations and little attempt has been made on the part of the Forest Service to identify alternatives to wilderness occupation.

With the advent of a criteria list generated by the organizations themselves, coupled with identified land areas potentially suited to the various activities engaged in, a tremendous opportunity exists to match the best land area to the appropriate activity regardless of the status of the land area (wilderness or other). Organizations are not demanding wilderness areas in order to carry out their programs. In fact, they have expressed a desire to operate outside wilderness because of the less restrictive nature of non classified areas.

### A. Recreation Use Amounts

Total recreational use amounts, visits(1) and visitor day use(2), are critical components in assisting the Resource Manager to realize the people pressures he must deal with. Visitor use amounts reported from 1980 to current will be examined, and in addition, future use trends will be discussed.

The Gila National Forest has registered an average of 5 organizational visits per year based on records of Special Use Permits on file in the Supervisor's Office. This use has been almost exclusively limited to the Gila Wilderness. The total number of visits vary from year to year but indicating a stabilization of at least 4 visits in the last few years. This is probably attributed to a tendency on the part of organizations to avoid some of the restrictions inherent in wilderness. Overall, these visits have generated approximately 2,000 visitor days (based on an average stay of 10 days each visit, 20 persons to the group). There are no firm figures available due to the nature of our annual permit system which does not carry over from year to year.

The above figures represent a substantial amount of use (probably underestimated) which is usually concentrated in certain areas within the wilderness. Some conflict, usually in the form of contacts with other users has occurred.

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(1). A visit is the entry of an individual into the wilderness (or any other land unit). If the same individual returns later after leaving the area, it is considered another visit.

(2). A visitor day is defined as the presence of one person for 12 hours or any equivalent combination of people with a combined presence of 12 visitor hours (1 person for 12 hours, 2 persons for 6 hours, etc.).

## 1. Use Trends

While it appears that a slight reduction in visits has occurred over the last few years, the overall trend tends to be somewhat stable. There is an obvious need for the services these organizations provide, and it is anticipated that use will continue at the current levels with a potential for increase. The assessment for increase is based on the continued interest shown on the part of organizations to operate in the Gila and from the position the Forest is taking in accommodating this type of use.

## B. Distribution of Use

Visitor use distribution for the Gila Wilderness for this type of organizational activity is concentrated within relatively confined corridors.

### 1. Entry Point Use

Almost without exception, entry is limited to what is commonly referred to as the Gila Corridor, a narrow dead-end intrusion that terminates at the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument. At best, this access is congested from about May through September. As a result of the convenience this major access route offers, many of the other trailheads into the wilderness are ignored and receive very light use. (Refer to Wilderness Access Map in Appendix)

Knowledge of these patterns and the levels of use being exercised can be of assistance to the manager in developing alternatives to achieving better overall dispersion.

## C. Characteristics of Use

The major characteristics of use for organizational programs on the Gila, origin of the visitor, length of stay, mode of travel, and timing of use is presented. Where appropriate, the management implications of these characteristics are identified.

### 1. Origin of Visitor

The origin of organizations does not appear to be a critical factor in evaluating use or opportunities. It is the setting that determines suitability, and organizations are willing to travel considerable distances to achieve their objectives. To date, the Gila has hosted organizations from Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. From a regional perspective, it does appear that there may be some limitations as to how far an organization may travel given that opportunities exist elsewhere within their immediate zones of influence. However, there are sufficient numbers of organizations desiring use on the Gila to dismiss origin as an important determinant.

## 2. Length of Stay

Generally, organizations conduct their programs over an extended period. From information gathered from the organizations themselves and from past performance, the average length of stay for a given program appears to be about 5 days. This will vary somewhat depending on the nature of the program, with some recorded stays up to 2 weeks.

## 3. Mode of Travel

Travel to and from the trail access points has been by company owned vehicle. These range from conventional passenger vehicles, vans, and buses, depending on the organization's capability and/or size of program. Once access is gained into Forest lands, the mode of transportation is almost exclusively foot travel. There have been occasions where horses are used to transport gear into the interior in order to set up base camps, but the participants usually rely on backpacking as the means for self reliance.

## 4. Timing of Use

By far, the most popular period for conducting organizational activities occurs between May and September annually. Reasons for this active period are climate related. It is during this period that the most favorable conditions exist for any outdoor activity. It is also the period during which young people are on summer break from school schedules. This pattern is not likely to change.

## VII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The remaining aspects of this study will concentrate on the integration of the mapping of the ROS areas and the introduction of organizational criteria to facilitate the matching of land areas with opportunities for achieving program objectives.

It has been pointed out that up to the present, organizational programs have been carried out almost exclusively within the Gila Wilderness. It has also been pointed out that, although the wilderness appears to be appropriate for most activities, there has been little attempt on the part of the Forest to identify and present alternatives to organizations that include opportunities outside wilderness.

By providing additional opportunities outside wilderness, there is a strong probability that congestion, unnecessary impacts on resources, and potential conflicts with other users can be substantially reduced. In addition, there is a decided advantage in promoting better dispersion and in offering high quality opportunities to the organizations free of many of the restrictions found within wilderness areas.

### A. Identification of Suitable Land Areas

First and foremost, it is necessary to develop an inventory of those land areas that would best lend themselves to the type of activities and the objectives of the various organizations. These land areas must possess certain characteristics, among which are, size, appropriate settings, access, and the physical attributes conducive to outdoor challenge activities.

#### 1. Use of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) effectively divides wildlands into numerous categories. These categories each lend themselves to certain types of recreation opportunities. In order to address the nature of the type of activities normally conducted by an organization in "wilderness adventure", only two categories will be considered for this project. They are Semi-Primitive Non Motorized (SP) and Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM). Definitions of these categories are found in Exhibit 1.

In conjunction with the development of the Forest Plan, a complete inventory was conducted which identified and mapped all categories found within the Gila National Forest (approximately 3,300,000 acres). The results of this inventory identified approximately 850,000 acres of SP and 245,000 acres of SPM. There are also approximately 800,000 acres of classified wilderness on the Gila bringing to a total nearly 1,895,000 acres of lands that will form the preliminary base from which selections can be made for organizational needs. Further analysis of the preliminary base will result in some reduction, but the overall acreage suitable for organizational activities will remain substantial.

Step 1. It was necessary to develop a map identifying these base land areas (see map inside pocket, back cover). This map has been further modified to reflect those land areas of sufficient size to be meaningful to back country activity. A figure of 5,000 contiguous acres was adopted which is the figure used in evaluating potential Wilderness candidates under the old RARE II program. In some instances, a smaller land unit has been retained because it possesses unique properties which might lend themselves to a particular activity that is site specific in nature (as in rock climbing or bridging a narrow gorge), or is contiguous to a larger land unit.

Step 2. Each land area is then given a unique number and a brief narrative describing it's inherent attributes developed. These attributes provide the basis for matching organizational needs to a specific land area once the criteria generated from the organizations has been developed.

#### B. Identification of Organizational Needs

It was necessary to query organizations to determine what their needs consist of in terms of offering certain types of programs. These needs are expressed as composition of clientele, numbers, degree of sophistication of activities, equipment, settings required, etc. From this query, a comprehensive list of requirements are identified which are converted to measureable criteria. This criteria is then applied to the land areas previously developed.

##### 1. Development of Organizational Criteria

Step 1. A detailed questionnaire was developed focusing on aspects of organizational function and programs in an attempt to identify common areas of need. This questionnaire was mailed to 10 organizations with appropriate instructions (See exhibit 2).

Step 2. Upon receiving the completed forms from the organizations (60% responded), a careful analysis of their content was conducted and the areas in common identified and summarized. (See exhibit 3). Those responses that were unique to a particular organization were also noted and recorded for later consideration. These responses were then formulated into criteria statements. (See exhibit 4).

#### C. Matching Needs to Land Areas

Each land area identified under the map inventory/narrative was then measured against the criteria. To keep the process somewhat simple in scope, there were only three ratings that could be given in terms of satisfying the criteria. These ratings are as follows: 1. Fully meets, 2. Partially meets, and, 3. Does not meet (See "Criteria Work Sheet", exhibit 5).

## 1. Rating Land Areas Against The Criteria

If a land area Fully meets the criteria, the land area would totally satisfy that particular requirement. If it only Partially meets the criteria, there may be certain aspects of the criteria that are not met but may still be referred to an organization for selection, leaving the final decision to them. However, if the area does Not Meet the criteria, it means that the basic thrust of the criterion can not be satisfied within that land area and that area will not be available for that series of activities.

Only the areas that fully or partially meet the criteria will be retained for further consideration. Following this process of rating each land area against individual criterion, each organization, upon application, will be scrutinized as to applicable criteria and the land area/s identified which best meet the combined objectives of the organization and management. These areas will form the basis from which management will make their selections and offer to the organizations a range of land areas for their eventual selection. Only those land areas offered will be considered as available for permit. Organizations must select from the areas identified. This step is necessary if management is to have any opportunity of maintaining controls over organization use.

## VIII. CONCLUSIONS AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

### CONCLUSIONS:

Traditionally, organizational activities have been accommodated in wilderness on the Gila National Forest. This trend can be attributed to the fact that the Forest itself has not made any attempt to identify other suitable areas and the organization's themselves are unaware of alternative opportunities.

The nature of the programs and activities engaged in by organizations may not always be compatible with wilderness resources or other users. As a result, it is necessary to develop alternatives in supplying suitable locations for organizations to carry out their unique functions.

An important discovery was made during the process of learning organizational needs and desires. In almost all cases, the organizations contacted showed a strong preference for being able to conduct their activities in Non-Wilderness areas. This willingness is very fortunate, as it is not the intention of the Forest Service to force this type of use out of the wilderness, but, rather, work with the organizations in achieving a more satisfactory solution for everyone involved. With willing partners to work with, there should be little conflict and good cooperation.

Utilization of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) coupled with the development of organizational needs has provided a valuable tool from which to make selections of land areas that meet the needs of organizations in carrying out their programs. In addition, it has resulted in an opportunity to distribute use to areas that historically have received light to little use in the past.

It is most appropriate that the Forest Service provide alternatives to wilderness in meeting organizational needs at this point in time. The information is available and there exists a willing partner.

### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continue to develop additional land areas potentially suitable for organizational needs. Build from the base provided in this study. Use the criteria and other information to drive the search for appropriate areas.
2. Pay particular attention to the highly specialized site specific opportunities that may exist outside of large land areas. Of special note are the opportunities for rock climbing and rappelling. These sites may well exist in close proximity to developed highways and Forest roads. Build an inventory and update regularly. Make these opportunities known to organizations upon their applications for use.
3. Develop a supplement to the Application for a Special Use Permit when dealing with organizations to reflect their needs. This

supplement should utilize terminology developed in the criteria under this study.

4. Screen applications and apply the techniques presented in this study to match the organization's objectives with suitable land areas. Always attempt to provide the organization with multiple choices.
5. Follow up with contact, either written or verbal (document if verbal), to determine the degree of satisfaction experienced by the organization. Use this information in dealing with future applicants.
6. Utilize existing data relating to wilderness use to strengthen or develop reasoning for relocation to non-wilderness areas. Do not be arbitrary in relocating.
7. Continue to seek additional information from organizations in an attempt to better serve their needs. Update the findings in this study and make necessary modifications.

IX. PUBLICATIONS CITED

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1975 "GILA WILDERNESS VISITOR DISTRIBUTION AND USE." Project requirement for Utah State University Short Course.

X. APPENDIX

1. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum - Definition of Semi-Primitive Motorized and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized. (Exhibit #1)
2. Organization Questionnaire - Sample. (Exhibit #2)
3. Questionnaire Summary. (Exhibit #3)
4. Development of Criteria. (Exhibit #4)
5. Criteria Work Sheet - Sample. (Exhibit #5)
6. Area Descriptions.
7. Wilderness Access Map.
8. Gila National Forest Land Management Plan.
9. Gila Wilderness 1976 Management Plan.
10. Personal Contacts.
11. Identification Maps - Organization Unit Study Areas (Inside Back Cover)

EXHIBIT #1

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM

DEFINITION - SEMI-PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED AND SEMI-PRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum provides a framework for defining the types of outdoor recreation opportunities the public might desire, and identifies that portion a given National Forest might be able to provide.

Thus, recreation opportunity is "the availability of a real choice for a user to participate in a preferred activity within a preferred setting, in order to realize those satisfying experiences which are desired."

The spectrum identifies six (6) classes. In descending order of "naturalness" they are: Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, Roaded Natural, Rural and Urban.

A pure definition of any class does not exist. Rather, each class is a function of several characteristics. Those characteristics are: SETTING, EXPERIENCE, REMOTENESS, and HUMAN EVIDENCE. For purposes of comparison, the characteristics for SP and SPM are displayed below side by side.

SEMI- PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED (SPM)

SEMI-PRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED

SETTING

Area is characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment of moderate to large size. Concentration of users is low but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Motorized use is permitted.

Area is characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment of moderate to large size. Interaction between user is low but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Motorized use is not permitted.

EXPERIENCE

Moderate probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of humans, independence, closeness to nature, tranquility, and self-reliance through the application of woodsman and outdoor skills in an environment that offers challenge and risk. Opportunity to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment. Opportunity to use motorized equipment while in the area.

High, but not extremely high, probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of humans, independence, closeness to nature, tranquility, and self-reliance through the application of woodsman and outdoor skills in an environment that offers challenge and risk.

### REMOTENESS

An area designated within 1/2 mile of primitive roads or trails used by motor vehicles; but not closer than 1/2 mile from better than primitive roads.

An area designated within 1/2 mile but not further than 3 miles from all roads railroads, or trails with motorized use; can include the existence of primitive roads and trails if usually closed to motorized use.

### HUMAN EVIDENCE

Natural setting may have moderately dominant alterations but would not draw the attention of motorized observers on trails and primitive roads within the area.

Strong evidence of primitive roads and the motorized use of trails and primitive roads.

Structures rare and isolated.

As can be seen from the above, the basic difference between the two classes rests with the issue of roads, and more importantly, use of motorized capability within the unit. The remaining characteristics are nearly parallel.

Natural setting may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but not draw the attention of an observer wandering through the area.

Little or no evidence of primitive roads and the motorized use of trails and primitive roads.

Structures rare and isolated.

EXHIBIT #2

ORGANIZATION QUESTIONNAIRE  
(Response requested by January 10, 1988)

INTRODUCTION AND INSTRUCTIONS:

The following query questions have been selected to aid in the development of criteria which will be used to identify land areas most suitable to organizational needs and objectives. You will note that I have specifically mentioned the Gila National Forest (headquarters in Silver City, New Mexico) but I would offer that if this project proves worthy, anticipate application of the process Nation-wide. Therefore, do not limit your thinking to just the Gila.

Be as specific in your answers as possible. If you need more space or feel the need to expound on a subject, by all means, please do so by writing on the back of the sheet or by attachment. Certain questions deal with travel distance and other geographic considerations. Do not limit your responses in terms of the Gila but, rather, any National Forest within your area of operation.

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

I. TYPE OF PROGRAM:

NUMERICALLY RANK THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTIVE CATEGORIES WITH #1 BEING THE MOST DESCRIPTIVE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF YOUR PROGRAM.

A.

EDUCATIONAL  
 THERAPEUTIC  
 EVALUATIVE/DIAGNOSTIC  
 DISCIPLINARY/CORRECTIVE  
 OTHER (identify) \_\_\_\_\_

---

B. DEVELOPMENT OF:

CAMPING SKILLS  
 SURVIVAL SKILLS  
 SELF ESTEEM/SELF CONCEPT  
 COPING SKILLS  
 ENVIRONMENTAL APPRECIATION  
 CHARACTER  
 SOCIAL SKILLS  
 RESPONSIBILITY  
 OTHER (identify) \_\_\_\_\_

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## II. CLIENTELE:

CHECK THE CATEGORIES BELOW THAT BEST REPRESENT CLIENT GROUPS THAT YOU SERVE.

A.

- JUVENILES
- ADULTS
- OFFENDERS
- EMOTIONALLY TROUBLED
- RELIGIOUS
- MALE
- FEMALE
- PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED
- MENTALLY ILL
- GENERAL POPULATION
- OTHER (identify) \_\_\_\_\_

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## III. SUPERVISION:

- A. STAFF TO PARTICIPANT RATIO \_\_\_\_\_
- B. APPROXIMATE % OF TIME THAT PARTICIPANTS MAY NOT BE DIRECTLY SUPERVISED \_\_\_\_\_
- C. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR STAFF TEAM \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## IV. GEOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS:

- A. DISTANCE WILLING TO TRAVEL TO ACTIVITY AREA (choose one).

- UP TO 100 MILES FROM BASE
- UP TO 300 MILES FROM BASE
- UP TO 500 MILES FROM BASE
- GREATER THAN 500 MILES
- NOT A CRITICAL CONCERN

- B. RELATIONSHIP TO POPULATION CENTERS/FACILITIES. ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 10, NUMERICALLY RANK IMPORTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS (1 being the most important).

- COMMUNICATION/TELEPHONE
- COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICE
- OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
- EMERGENCY MEDICAL FACILITIES
- LOCAL MARKET FOR YOUR PROGRAMS
- OTHER (identify) \_\_\_\_\_

Questionnaire (continued)

C. DESIRED QUALITIES OF ACTIVITY AREA (Rank as above)

- REMOTENESS
- HIGH USE BY OTHERS
- LOW USE BY OTHERS
- LARGE ESSENTIALLY ROADLESS AREA
- OPPORTUNITY FOR OFF-TRAIL TRAVEL (Cross country)
- HIGHLY DEVELOPED TRAIL SYSTEM
- MULTIPLE TRAILHEAD ACCESS POINTS (Loop & through systems)
- VARIETY OF TERRAIN
- RELATIVE EASE OF DEALING WITH THE PERMITTING AGENCY
- OTHER (identify) \_\_\_\_\_

D. TYPICAL LENGTH OF STAY IN ACTIVITY AREA:

- LESS THAN ONE WEEK
- UP TO TWO WEEKS
- GREATER THAN TWO WEEKS (Identify) \_\_\_\_\_

E. BACKCOUNTRY MILEAGE COVERED DURING TYPICAL VISIT:

- LESS THAN FIVE MILES
- 5 TO 10 MILES
- 10 TO 20 MILES
- 20 TO 50 MILES
- GREATER THAN 50 MILES

F. ACTIVITY AND GEOGRAPHIC/TOPOGRAPHIC PREFERENCE:

On a scale of 1 to 10, rank the following in importance to YOUR program (1 is most important). Follow the activity with a brief description of preferred topography and settings for that activity. (e.g., 1 Backpacking varied terrain, on/off trail, average scenery.)

- BACKPACKING \_\_\_\_\_
- DAY HIKES \_\_\_\_\_
- CAMPING \_\_\_\_\_
- CANOEING \_\_\_\_\_
- BICYCLING \_\_\_\_\_
- CANYONEERING \_\_\_\_\_
- INITIATIVE GAMES \_\_\_\_\_
- KAYAKING \_\_\_\_\_
- MOUNTAINEERING \_\_\_\_\_
- RAPPELLING \_\_\_\_\_
- ROCK CLIMBING \_\_\_\_\_
- RUNNING \_\_\_\_\_

Questionnaire (Continued)

\_\_\_\_ SERVICE/WORK PROJECTS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ SKIING \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ SNOWMOBILING \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ SOLO \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ SWIMMING \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

G. EQUIPMENT UTILIZED: Based on the program or programs you offer, please list the typical equipment needed to achieve your objectives. List any "highly specialized" equipment separately from standard gear.

(e.g., Program - Educational; Camping  
Specialized Equipment: None

Standard Equipment: Wall tents, Kitchen and associated mess gear, general backpacking gear, water purification gear, other related general camp facilities, lightweight portable radio communication, standard first aid kits.)

USE THE FOLLOWING RANGE OF EQUIPMENT TO DEVELOP YOUR DETAILED LISTS:

STANDARD CAMPING EQUIPMENT, PLUS OR MINUS SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL GEAR AS FOR ROCK CLIMBING, PACK STOCK, AND/OR:

STANDARD GEAR VS MINIMALIST, SURVIVALIST, AND/OR:

RELATED TO RANGE OF COMMITMENT TO AVAILABILITY OF SPECIAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT:

- BASIC VS EXTREMELY SOPHISTICATED (and heavy) FIRST AID KIT
- RADIOS, (type) OR OTHER ELECTRONICS.
- SAFETY EQUIPMENT READILY AVAILABLE (in vehicle, cached, on hand)

TYPE OF PROGRAM/S \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

STANDARD EQUIPMENT \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

H. PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY: Give a brief description of the nature of your program in relation to your activities. Examples to keep in mind in addressing this section: Do you concentrate your activity in a relatively small area or do you require dispersing individuals or groups over a large area? How large a land base do you require to meet your objectives? Do you typically operate out of a base camp or do you require the capability for mobility?

QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

Ten questionnaires were mailed to various organizations in December, 1987. Six responded. 60% responded, and the similarities in structure of the organizations and their ratings of the questions proved to be extremely useful in grouping and summarizing needs. There was a very close relationship to needs identified by all respondents showing strong commonality in this area. This provided an excellent base from which to develop criteria.

This questionnaire was never intended to be scientific in nature or conform to a rigid format as normally encountered in research projects. The questions are intended to provide preferences and indications of what the organizations are and what they need in order to carry out their programs. The results of the analysis are summarized as follows:

**TYPE OF PROGRAM:**

The majority of the organizations identified Therapeutic as their primary program emphasis. Closely following were Evaluative and Educational. All organizations are well structured and possess professional staff personnel.

**SKILL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES:**

Major emphasis is on Responsibility, Social Skills, Self Esteem/Self Concept, and Coping Skills in approximately that order. The highly structured programs offered by the organizations appear to be more oriented toward building individuals character rather than focusing on perfecting a particular capability. It's feeling good about oneself that is emphasized.

**CLIENTELE:**

Generally, the majority of the clientele will be youths of either sex, but predominantly male, with some history of juvenile delinquency or having demonstrated difficulty in adjusting to society as a whole. The programs are aimed at rehabilitation or adjustment by building better self respect and worth. Most of these young people come from urban environments and have little experience or knowledge of back country ethics or skills. It is this alien environment that provides the arena from which character building takes place.

**SUPERVISION:**

In almost all cases, the ratio of instructors (counselors) to student runs 1 in 4 (1 instructor to every 4 students). It is rare that during any given program students are unsupervised for more than 10% of the total time. The qualifications of staff and instructors appears to be quite high with a majority as college graduates with degrees in Sociology and other related disciplines. Almost all are required to demonstrate some previous experience in working with social programs.

#### GEOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS:

Almost all respondents stated they would travel 300 miles and beyond to achieve their objectives. This does not appear to be a critical issue provided they can locate in favorable terrain.

All demonstrated a need to be within proximity to easily accessible communication/telephone networks in the event of emergencies. In addition, they showed a strong preference for being relatively close to emergency medical facilities. Time is always a factor in life threatening emergencies, especially when dealing with inexperienced personnel being exposed to primitive conditions.

The qualities being sought were predictable. The most desirable characteristics consisted of remoteness and low use by others. Next in preference were that the area be essentially roadless, possess off-trail capabilities ("bushwacking"), and have terrain variety.

Length of stay varies from organization to organization. Some identified as little as 1 week while others specified periods up to a month or longer. This item will have to be addressed on the basis of the ability of a land area to absorb impacts over extended periods of time.

When responding to the question of how much mileage a particular organization generates during the course of their activities, most identified with the greater than 50 mile category. This serves to show that most programs require mobility on the part of their clientele and that they expect to be able to move freely within a given land area.

#### ACTIVITY PREFERENCES:

Collectively, the organizations identified groupings of activities that can be consolidated in terms of similarities in degree of difficulty, sophistication, and skill levels required. The basic group that nearly all organizations affiliated with are Backpacking-Camping-Canyoneering-Day Hikes. This group provides the basics from which other skills are developed. Next, a group emerged consisting of Rock Climbing-Rappelling-Initiative Games-Service/Work Projects. This group obviously requires higher levels of skill as well as specialized equipment. A third group was also identified which consisted of Water Activities (Canoeing, Rafting, Tubing, Swimming) and Mechanical Affiliations (Bicycling-Snowmobiling).

**EQUIPMENT:**

Results from this query proved to be inconclusive and of little benefit to the study. Equipment preference is a personal choice and will vary substantially by organization depending on their objectives. The equipment issue did result in one important discovery that will prove useful in planning for use. No organization has shown a preference for the use of stock in their operations.

**PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY:**

Virtually all organizations demonstrated a high degree of internal order. That is, they are well balanced, highly structured, and specialized. From an operational standpoint on-the-ground, all expressed a need for remaining flexible as to freedom of movement, ability to set up their physical layouts without interference, and to remain capable of responding to situations as they may occur in order to capitalize or avoid natural phenomenon.

DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA

Following the analysis and summarization of the responses from the various organizations queried, it was necessary to convert need statements into criteria statements. By taking the major topic headings developed in the questionnaire, and restructuring them into statements that a land unit can be measured against, the following criteria emerged:

CRITERIA

## TYPE OF PROGRAM:

Organizations offering therapeutic, evaluative, educational and similar services can operate utilizing optimum flexibility free of restriction in movement and assembly.

## SKILL DEVELOPMENT:

Clientele must be free to engage in a wide variety of emotional and physical experiences with a minimal of constraint from outside influences.

## CLIENTELE:

Clientele will experience few, if any, contacts with other users.

## SUPERVISION:

Supervisors are able to remain in contact with their charges on a more or less continual basis.

## GEOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS:

- A. Closest community offering good communications, medical facilities, and sources for replenishing food and basic supplies lies within 2 hours by conventional travel means from the center of unit.
- B. Occupancy on the part of participants can be tolerated for extended periods of up to three weeks without sustaining irreversible environmental impacts.
- C. Area possesses remote capability and low use by others during the preferred period of proposed use. (Management generated)
- D. Access to the area is easily achieved.
- E. Trails are well developed within the area.
- F. Area possesses a variety of terrain offering a wide range of challenges.

G. Area is of suitable size to encourage dispersion and exploration without dependancy on adjacent units.

H. Potable water is available in one or more locations within the unit. (Potable water in this context refers to a flowing source that can, and should, be treated. Standing water, as in stock tanks or ponding, is not considered a viable source). (Management generated)

ACTIVITY PREFERENCES:

- A. Area lends itself to a wide variety of general activities.
  - 1. Localized group camping (Main camps)
  - 2. Dispersed camp sites (Backpacking)
  - 3. Day hiking - Sightseeing
  - 4. Canyoneering
- B. Area offers specialized capabilities.
  - 1. Rock climbing/Rappelling
  - 2. River running (Rafting - Tubing)
  - 3. Initiative Games
  - 4. Service/Work Projects
- C. Area offers mechanically oriented opportunities.
  - 1. Bicycling
  - 2. Snowmobiling
  - 3. ORVs

CRITERIA WORK SHEET

UNIT	EVALUATION	SATISFACTION RATING
		FULLY PARTIAL NONE
TYPE OF PROGRAM:		
ORGANIZATIONS OFFERING THERAPEUTIC, EVALUATIVE, EDUCATIONAL AND SIMILAR SERVICES CAN OPERATE UTILIZING OPTIMUM FLEXIBILITY AND FREE OF RESTRICTION IN MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY.		
SKILL DEVELOPMENT:		
CLIENTELE MUST BE FREE TO ENGAGE IN A WIDE VARIETY OF EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL EXPERIENCES WITH A MINIMAL OF CONSTRAINT FROM OUTSIDE INFLUENCE		
CLIENTELE:		
CLIENTELE EXPERIENCE FEW, IF ANY, CONTACTS WITH OTHER USERS.		
SUPERVISION:		
SUPERVISORS ARE ABLE TO REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH THEIR CHARGES MORE OR LESS ON A CONTINUAL BASIS.		
EOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS:		
A. CLOSEST COMMUNITY OFFERING GOOD COMMUNICATION, MEDICAL FACILITIES, AND SOURCES FOR REPLENISHING FOOD AND BASIC SUPPLIES IS WITHIN 2 HOURS BY CONVENTIONAL TRAVEL MEANS FROM THE CENTER OF UNIT.		
B. OCCUPANCY ON THE PART OF PARTICIPANTS CAN BE TOLERATED FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF UP TO THREE WEEKS WITHOUT SUSTAINING IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.		
C. AREA POSSESSES REMOTE CAPABILITY AND LOW USE BY OTHERS DURING THE PREFERRED PERIOD OF PROPOSED USE.		
D. ACCESS TO THE AREA IS READILY ACHIEVED		
E. TRAILS ARE WELL DEVELOPED IN THE UNIT		
F. AREA POSSESSES A VARIETY OF TERRAIN OFFERING A WIDE RANGE OF CHALLENGES		

G. AREA IS OF SUITABLE SIZE TO ENCOURAGE  
DISPERSION AND EXPLORATION WITHOUT DEPENDANCY  
ON ADJACENT UNITS

H. POTABLE WATER IS AVAILABLE IN ONE OR MORE  
LOCATIONS WITHIN THE UNIT. (Potable water in this  
context refers to a flowing source that can, and  
should be treated. Standing water, as in stock  
tanks or ponding, is not considered a viable  
source)

ACTIVITY PREFERENCES:

A. AREA LENDS ITSELF TO A WIDE VARIETY OF  
GENERAL ACTIVITIES.

1. LOCALIZED GROUP CAMPING (Main Camp)
2. DISPERSED CAMP SITES (Backpacking)
3. DAY HIKING/SIGHTSEEING
4. CANYONEERING (Negotiating rough terrain)

B. AREA OFFERS SPECIALIZED CAPABILITIES.

1. ROCK CLIMBING/RAPPELLING
2. RIVER RUNNING (Rafting/Tubing)
3. INITIATIVE GAMES
4. SERVICE/WORK PROJECTS

C. AREA OFFERS MECHANICAL ORIENTED OPPORTUNITIES.

1. BICYCLING
2. SNOWMOBILING
3. ORVs

AREA DESCRIPTIONS  
(Potential Organization Use Areas)

AREA #2A BLACK RANGE RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 39,000

ACCESS:

Poor to fair  
Many locked gates  
Not well trailede

TERRAIN:

Steep and very rugged  
Diverse vegetation, predominantly Pinyon-Juniper-Oak  
Very scenic

WATER:

Many intermittent creeks  
Many springs  
Numerous stock tanks

CHARACTERISTICS:

Some ranches  
Remote area navigation  
Rock climbing  
Survival testing

OPPORTUNITIES:

Rock climbing  
Mining history  
Navigating

LOCATION:

Good to communications  
Good for basic provisions  
Fair for full service medical

CURRENT USE:

Low use (hunting season)  
Few encounters with others

AREA #2B

BLACK RANGE

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 6,250

ACCESS:

Fair road access from west, poor from east  
West half well traileed, east half cross country

TERRAIN:

Rugged, steep with isolated rock outcrops

WATER FEATURES:

Numerous springs  
Several streams (Intermittent)

CHARACTERISTICS:

Group campsites limited  
Hiking, horseback riding.  
Difficult terrain, bushwacking  
Unit size limits length of stay and group size

OPPORTUNITIES:

Viewing old mining activities

LOCATION:

Winston 2 hours (Minimal services - communication, gas, minor supplies)  
Truth or Consequences 3 hours (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Low year round (Some hunting and hiking)

AREA #2C

BLACK RANGE

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 22,400

ACCESS:

Fair roads from west  
Poor road access from east  
Interior trail access fair, most in good shape

TERRAIN:

Scenic, vegetation consists of some mixed conifer and Pinyon-Juniper  
Rugged with major canyons, numerous rock outcrops  
Continental Divide through unit

WATER FEATURES:

Numerous springs  
Numerous intermittent streams

CHARACTERISTICS:

Poor base camp capability  
Excellent survival and primitive skill testing  
Access governed by locked gates (private) limiting flexibility. Best access FR 46 into Bear Canyon

OPPORTUNITIES:

Rock climbing, survival and map orientation, rappelling

LOCATION:

Winston 11/2 hours (Minimal services, telephone communication)  
Truth or Consequences 21/2 hours (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Low, hunting and hiking

AREA #2D

BLACK RANGE

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 20,000

ACCESS:

Peripheral roading fair  
Interior trail system virtually non-existant

TERRAIN:

Very scenic and rugged  
Rock outcrops, bluffs, steep  
Some mixed conifer, Pinyon-Juniper, grassland

CHARACTERISTICS:

Good group locations  
Remote, suitable for survival, map orientation, cross country, rock climbing

OPPORTUNITIES:

Rock climbing, rappelling, low incidence of contact with others

LOCATION:

Winston 1 hour (Minimal services)  
Truth or Consequences 2 hours (Full services)

AREA #2E

BLACK RANGE

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 8,300

ACCESS:

Peripheral road system fair  
No internal trails, cross country only

TERRAIN:

Moderately steep, some rock outcrops

WATER FEATURES:

Very dry area  
No known water sources

CHARACTERISTICS:

Suitable for one-day excursions  
Small group or individuals  
Poor group campsite potential

OPPORTUNITIES:

Testing cross country skill, good drop and pick up capability

LOCATION:

Beaverhead 1 hour (Telephone and emergency Forest Service assistance)  
Winston 2 hours (Minimal services)  
Truth or Consequences 3 hours (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Very low, some hunting

AREA #3A

LUNA

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 18,000

ACCESS:

Excellent roads (perimeter system)  
Numerous trails

Five major trail-heads around the area

TERRAIN:

High Topographic relief  
Mixed vegetation  
Trails of moderate difficulty  
Good scenery

WATER FEATURES:

Good, 9 springs - 5 intermittent streams

CHARACTERISTICS:

Mountain biking, hiking, survival, Institutional activities,  
bushwacking, motorcycling  
Many camping locations (group and individual)  
Easy shuttle for pick up and drop offs.  
Few encounters with other recreationists

OPPORTUNITIES:

No special opportunities

LOCATION:

Whispering Pines (The Y) 1/4 hour (communications)  
Reserve 1/2 hour (All services except hospital)  
Springerville 2 hours (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Very low

AREA #3B

LUNA

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 2,250 (REFER TO CONTIGUOUS UNIT #6E)

AREA #4A

GLENWOOD

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 14,725

ACCESS:

Limited dirt road along east side  
No interior trail system.

TERRAIN:

Broken rough country. Difficult to cross country.  
Vegetation mostly Pinyon/Juniper.  
Average scenery.

WATER FEATURES:

No live streams.  
Some springs but hard to find.  
Some stock tanks.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Access a problem.  
Numerous campsites but not near water.  
Old mining activity around periphery.  
Challenging to outdoor skills.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Nothing unique.

LOCATION:

Cliff, 1/2 hour (Limited services)  
Glenwood, 1 hour (Limited services)  
Silver City, 1 hour (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Very low. Light hunting use in November.

AREA #4B

GLENWOOD

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 17,280

ACCESS:

Fair road along the east side of unit and on Arizona side along southwest boundary of unit.

Interior trails in poor condition, numerous, good overall coverage.

TERRAIN:

Level to rolling with much dissection.

Vegetation predominantly Pinyon/Juniper, many open grassy areas. Elevations range from 4,000 - 6,500 feet.

WATER FEATURES:

San Francisco River along north edge of unit but difficult to access. Many stock tanks.

Springs and wet areas in numerous Cienegas.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Many suitable camping sites, some in very pleasing locations.

Relatively easy country to negotiate.

Excellent for developing outdoor skills.

OPPORTUNITIES:

No special attributes. Good for group training.

LOCATION:

Cliff, 1/2 hour (Limited services)

Glenwood, 1 hour (Limited services)

Silver City, 1 hour (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Very low. Some hunting during November.

AREA #4C & 4D

GLENWOOD

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 4,800 & 6,400

ACCESS:

Poor road access, can be reached from San Francisco River but steep climbs.  
No interior trail system.

TERRAIN:

Moderately rough with numerous small canyons.  
Predominantly Pinyon/Juniper vegetation.  
Average scenery.  
Little elevation change (average 6,000 feet)

WATER FEATURES:

San Francisco River splits the units but difficult to access due to steep drop off into canyon.  
Numerous springs in Unit 4D but few in 4C.  
No perennial streams in either unit.  
Few stock tanks.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Good for isolation without having to cover long distances.  
Numerous campsites.  
San Francisco River a major attraction.  
Good cross country training capabilities.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Possible rock climbing and rappelling in San Francisco Canyon.

LOCATION:

Glenwood, 1/2 hour (Limited services)  
Silver City, 1 hour (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Low outside San Francisco River Canyon, moderate within.  
Some 4x4 activity in Canyon can be expected.

AREA #4E

GLENWOOD

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 14,750

ACCESS:

Excellent road along entire southern boundary and east side, poor road within 1 mile entire length of northern boundary.

Excellent trail up the middle along Mineral Creek. Poor opportunities elsewhere.

TERRAIN:

Very steep coming out of Mineral Creek both sides. Confined to bottom. Dense mixed conifer.

Quite scenic, bear country.

WATER FEATURES:

Year round water in Mineral Creek.  
Numerous springs.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Would be excellent for a solo outing lasting overnight.

Mineral Creek offers fishing and swimming holes.

Closed in effect, limited to bottom travel, individual or small group camping.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Solo trips, self confidence building.

LOCATION:

Glenwood, 1/2 hour (Limited services)

Reserve, 1 hour (Limited services)

Silver City, 1 1/2 hours (Full Services)

CURRENT USE:

Low with an increase in use during October (Elk hunting) and November (Deer hunting). Hunting use associated with stock.

AREA #4F & 4G

GLENWOOD

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 16,000

ACCESS:

Poor road along southern boundary within 1/2 mile of unit, good gravel road provides access to east end.  
Interior trails fair, with good trails in the bottoms.

TERRAIN:

Moderately steep and dissected.  
Good deal of diversity.  
Vegetation mostly mixed conifer with Ponderosa pine in dryer sites.  
Better than average scenery.

WATER FEATURES:

Water can be found year round in the bottom of Deep Creek.  
Springs are numerous.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Many excellent camping sites for large groups.  
Good topographic configurations for ridge travel or working the bottoms.  
Somewhat challenging to outdoor skills.  
Good dispersion capability.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Possible rappelling potential along Deep Creek, but requires hiking in to achieve.  
This would be a very good unit for developing map reading and negotiating cross country skills.

LOCATION:

Glenwood, 1 hour (Limited services)  
Reserve, 1 hour (Limited services)  
Silver City, 2 hours (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Low during summer months. Moderate to high use during hunting season from October - November.

AREA #4H

GLENWOOD

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 17,900

ACCESS:

Fair road from east to Devils Park. Fair road from west to Frying Pan Canyon. Otherwise poor road opportunities. Interior trail system limited.

TERRAIN:

Heavily dissected, steep, difficult to cross country. Western portion mostly Pinyon/Juniper, remainder mixed conifer. Above average scenery.

WATER FEATURES:

Intermittent water in major drainages.  
Few springs.  
Few stock tanks.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Poor configuration (shape) does not lend itself to travel.  
High outdoor skill levels needed.  
Very demanding physically.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Challenge high skill levels.

LOCATION:

Glenwood, 1 hour (Limited services)  
Reserve, 1 hour (Limited services)  
Silver City, 2 1/2 hours (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Low with some hunting activity.

AREA #5A

MIMBRES

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 10,250

ACCESS:

Good interior system trails. Room for bushwacking  
Fair road access to take-off points and for pick-ups.

TERRAIN:

Moderate in topography.  
Easily accessed and not overly difficult to move within.  
Predominantly Pinyon/Juniper vegetation type with dispersed Ponderosa pine.  
Elevation ranges from 6,200 - 7,500 feet. Not overly scenic.

WATER FEATURES:

Allie Canyon fed by springs which have been known to dry up in mid summer. Bear canyon is intermittent.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Good area for developing skills.  
Numerous excellent campsite areas.  
Some challenge to outdoor skills.  
Excellent "learning" area for past and present management activity.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Possible rock climbing or rappelling sites but would have to be "searched" out due to locations in side canyons.

LOCATION:

Bayard, Hanover, Mimbres about 1 hour (Limited services)  
Silver City, 1 1/2 hours (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Low use. Mostly during deer season (November)

AREA #5B

MIMBRES

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 11,850

ACCESS:

Good road access along the north side, fair to the south.  
Interior trails fair to good.

TERRAIN:

Very dissected and difficult to travel across off trails.  
Vegetation consists of mostly mixed conifer.  
Elevations range from 6,000 - 8,000 feet.  
Fairly scenic, good distant viewing from higher elevations.

WATER FEATURES:

Few isolated springs.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Campsites few and well dispersed.  
Very rugged terrain, very challenging to outdoor skills.  
Would make good survival training unit.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Some rock climbing and/or rappelling in the Gallinas Canyon area.

LOCATION:

Mimbres approximately 1 hour (Limited services)  
Silver City, 1 1/2 hours (Full service)

CURRENT USE:

Very low with some activity in November deer hunting. Trapping activity during winter months.

AREA #5C

MIMBRES

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 18,500

ACCESS:

Good road access to the north and south of unit.  
Excellent trails which skirt the periphery, poor interior trails.

TERRAIN:

Difficult to negotiate off trails in eastern portion.  
Grand scenery along east side contiguous to wilderness.  
Vegetation in west half mostly Pinyon/Juniper, east half Ponderosa  
pine and mixed conifer.  
Elevations range from 7,000 - 10,000 feet.

WATER FEATURES:

Live streams in Railroad and East Canyons (Northern and southeastern  
most portions of unit).  
Numerous springs scattered throughout unit.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Very challenging to outdoor skills.  
Rugged untrailed center core.  
Scattered and limited large camping site availability.  
Trails could use work.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Suitable rappelling areas in Gallinas Canyon and Rabb Park.

LOCATION:

Mimbres, 1 hour (Limited services)  
Silver City, 2 hours (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Moderate summer use - mostly hikers. Hunting in November, some  
trapping during winter months.

AREA #5D

MIMBRES

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 19,800

ACCESS:

State Highway (Gravel) to west within 1 mile of unit, poor 4x4 road from east side of unit.  
No internal trail system.

TERRAIN:

Very rugged with many box canyons and rock outcrops.  
Access difficult.  
Mostly Pinyon/Juniper vegetative type.  
Visually interesting in foreground settings.

WATER FEATURES:

Live streams in Taylor Creek and Hoyt Creek.  
Some springs around the periphery, none in interior.

CHARACTERISTICS:

This area would be excellent for small groups or individuals with high outdoor skill levels.  
Campsites limited and well dispersed.  
Water in the interior a problem.  
Very good survival training potential.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Many rock outcrops suitable for climbing and rappelling. Two problems associated, however. Access is difficult and any injured person would be difficult to transport out.

LOCATION:

Beaverhead Work center, 1/2 hour (Emergencies only)  
Mimbres, Winston, 3 hours (Limited services)  
Silver City, Truth or Consequences, 31/2 hours (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Very low due to inaccessibility. Expect some hunting.

AREA #6A

RESERVE

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 26,250

ACCESS:

Good peripheral road along west, north and east of unit. No roads in southern portion.

Interior trails poor with only single trail along San Francisco River.

TERRAIN:

Very rugged with steep hillsides and heavy dissection.

Ponderosa pine to mixed conifer.

Above average scenery.

Elevations average around 6,000 feet.

WATER FEATURES:

San Francisco River year round flow.

Few other reliable sources. Few springs, few stock tanks.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Extremely challenging to outdoor skills.

Mostly cross country travel.

Very steep and difficult to negotiate.

Recommended for experienced personnel only.

OPPORTUNITES:

For ultimate challenge only.

LOCATION:

Reserve, 1/2 hour (Limited services)

Glenwood, 1 hour (Limited services)

Silver City, 2 1/2 hours (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Low even during hunting season.

AREA #6B

RESERVE

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 29,000

ACCESS:

Good roads around perimeter, low standard roads throughout area.  
No trail system but roads can suffice as hiking trails.

TERRAIN:

Rolling to moderate.  
Mostly Ponderosa pine to grasslands in eastern portion.  
Above average scenery, very important elk habitat area.  
Relatively easy to cross country.

WATER FEATURES:

Intermittent in T Bar Canyon. Remainder of drainages questionable.  
Numerous stock tanks.  
No known springs.  
Potable drinking water available at Snow Lake (3 miles from southwest corner of unit).

CHARACTERISTICS:

General outdoor skill training.  
Good dispersion capability.  
Many suitable campsites for larger groups.  
Good cross country potential.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Excellent wildlife observing, especially elk.  
Beginners and general training.

LOCATION:

Reserve, 1/12 hours (Limited services)  
Negrito Fire Base, 1/2 hour (Emergency only)  
Glenwood, 2 1/2 hours (Limited services)  
Silver City, 3 1/2 hours (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Low to moderate summer months.  
Very high activity October and November, hunting.

AREA #6C

RESERVE

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 8,300

ACCESS:

Fair road into unit.  
No interior trails.

TERRAIN:

Moderately dissected.  
Generally high country (Continental Divide bisects unit)  
Elevation range from 8,000 - 9,400 feet.  
Ponderosa pine vegetation in high areas giving way to P/J.

WATER FEATURES:

No known water.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Campsites few.  
Limited to small group or individuals.  
All cross country travel.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Suitable for training small group or individuals in survival or in solitude.

LOCATION:

Negrito Fire Base, 1 hour (Emergencies only)  
Beaverhead Work Center, 1 hour (Emergencies only)  
Reserve, 1 1/2 hours (Limited services)  
Silver City, 4 hours (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Low with some hunting activity during October - November.

AREA #6D

RESERVE

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 55,700

ACCESS:

Fair road to Eagle Peak. Good road along east side of unit. Timber sales and management will result in increased road access in near future. Fair interior trail system.

TERRAIN:

Very steep in vicinity of Eagle Peak. Otherwise moderate with steep canyons. Vegetation varies but predominantly mixed conifer and Ponderosa pine. Rugged country with lots of diversity. Elevations vary from 6,000 to over 9,700 feet.

WATER FEATURES:

Water can be found year round in Negrito Creek and Deep Canyon. Intermittent elsewhere. Numerous springs including developed spring at Eagle Peak.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Can facilitate large groups. Numerous suitable campsites for groups. Large piece of country capable of absorbing impacts. Above average scenery.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Large group training. Possible rock climbing and rappelling in the Tularosa drainage adjacent to unit. Long stay potential.

LOCATION:

Reserve, 3/4 hour (Limited services)  
Springerville, 2 1/2 hours (Full services)  
Silver City, 3 hours (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Low during summer - will increase with logging activities. Moderate during hunting season.

AREA #6E

RESERVE

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 34,250 (Includes 2,250 acres of 3B)

ACCESS:

Good roads around perimeter.  
Minimal interior trails.

TERRAIN:

Very broken and variable.  
Steep rocky canyons.  
Vegetation varies from Pinyon/Juniper in north and western portions to Ponderosa pine in higher elevations.  
Elevations vary from 6,500 feet to over 8,600 feet.

WATER FEATURES:

San Francisco River runs through center of unit.  
Numerous other intermittent water sources.  
Numerous springs inside unit as well as on outer edges.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Good group campsites around edge as well as internal. Internal more difficult to access.  
Good dispersion capability.  
High challenge capability.

OPPORTUNITIES:

High skill level activities.  
Good isolation capability.

LOCATION:

Reserve, 1 hour (Limited services)  
Springerville, 3 hours (Full services)  
Silver City, 3 hours (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Low except during hunting season.

AREA #6F

RESERVE

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 8,960

ACCESS:

Fair road access along west side of unit.  
No internal trails.

TERRAIN:

Moderately steep and dissected.  
Mostly Ponderosa pine type vegetation.  
Elevation varies from 6,500 - 8,000 feet.

WATER FEATURES:

Intermittent water in Wilson Canyon.  
Numerous springs.  
Standing water at Toriette Lakes.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Relatively compact unit.  
Moderate degree of difficulty cross country.  
Small groups or individuals.  
Excellent elk area.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Moderate outdoor skill level training.

LOCATION:

Reserve, 1 hour (Limited services)  
Springerville, 3 hours (Full services)  
Silver City, 3 hours (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Low except during hunting seasons.

AREA #6G

RESERVE

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 14,000

ACCESS:

Good highway along northwest part of unit. Poor road along south.  
No interior trails.

TERRAIN:

Moderately rough and dissected.  
Pinyon/Juniper in the lower reaches giving way to Ponderosa pine.  
Elevation varies from 6,500 - 9,000 feet.  
Difficult to cross country.

WATER FEATURES:

No dependable water sources.

CHARACTERISTICS:

No real redeaming aspects.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Possibly isolation and high level skill training.

LOCATION:

Reserve, 3/4 hour (Limited services)  
Springerville, 3 hours (Full services)  
Silver City, 3 hours (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Low with some hunting activity

AREA #7A

SILVER CITY

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 11,500

ACCESS:

Good road access to jumping off places  
Interior trails in form of old roads

TERRAIN:

Rolling to steep  
Predominantly Pinyon-Juniper with Ponderosa pine. Some areas  
extremely thick growth habit.  
Varied

WATER FEATURES:

Several live streams  
Potable water available at Forest Service work center

CHARACTERISTICS:

Day hiking, backpacking, map reading  
Superb wildlife viewing - elk, deer, turkey  
Small to moderate group activity

OPPORTUNITIES:

Viewing Elk herds  
Good change of pace

LOCATION:

Ft. Bayard Hospital complex 15 minutes (emergency medical,  
communications)  
Bayard/Central 20 minutes (General services)  
Silver City 1/2 hour (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Fairly high along main access road  
Moderate to low in the back reaches  
Mostly viewing of wildlife

AREA #7B

SILVER CITY

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 17,275

ACCESS:

Excellent peripheral roads  
No interior trails

TERRAIN:

Rough, highly dissected, brushy in areas  
Rock bluffs

WATER FEATURES:

Some water may be available in Meadow and Skate Creeks.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Highly skilled backpacking, orienteering, survival techniques  
Small to moderate groups with 2-3 day stay intentions  
Campsites limited

OPPORTUNITIES:

Rappelling and rock climbing in Meadow and Skate Creeks

LOCATION:

Lake Roberts Store 1/2 hour (Limited services)  
Silver City 1 hour (Full Services)

CURRENT USE:

Very low, that in hunting

APPROXIMATE ACRES 35,850

## ACCESS:

Good road access to the east end, fair on west, poor remainder  
Fair to poor interior trails, most in the east 1/3 of unit.  
cross country in much of unit

## TERRAIN:

Very diverse, rugged  
Unique geologic feature at "Devil's Garden"  
Stretches of bolder fields, impenetrable brush fields.

## WATER FEATURES:

Numerous springs (unmarked, difficult to find)  
Some water usually in bottoms of Sycamore and Cave canyon.

## CHARATERISTICS:

High skill levels for small groups  
Limited campsite opportunities  
Survival, rugged back country challenges

## OPPORTUNITIES:

Remoteness, few contacts with others, viewing unusual features

## LOCATION:

Silver City 20 minutes to 1/12 hours (Full services)

## CURRENT USE:

Horse endurance ride in spring  
Low use remainder of year

AREA #7D

SILVER CITY

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 3,350

ACCESS:

Road access to edge of unit  
No interior trails  
Contiguous to Gila Wilderness

TERRAIN:

Limited to the River bottoms  
Steep crumbling bluffs, steep slopes

WATER FEATURES:

Mogollon Creek and Gila River

CHARACTERISTICS:

Good group campsites in bottom  
Limited size of area dictates using Wilderness  
Low challenge opportunities, good skill development potential  
Overnight staging area

OPPORTUNITIES:

River running - day trips (early spring)  
Nature study in riparian areas

LOCATION:

Cliff-Gila, 1/4 hour (Limited services)  
Silver City, 1 hour (Full services)

CURRENT USE:

Moderate to high. Major trail head to Gila Wilderness.

AREA #9A

QUEMADO

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 12,150

ACCESS:

Excellent roads on west and south sides, poor elsewhere  
No interior trails

TERRAIN:

Moderate variation, dense woodland vegetation, highly erosive sandy soils

WATER FEATURES:

None of significance. Area dry and few water improvements not dependable

CHARACTERISTICS:

Survival activities, cross country hiking, high dispersal potential, water limiting factor

OPPORTUNITIES:

Serious survival skills, cross country skill development

LOCATION:

Quemado 1/2 to 1 hour (Limited services)  
Springerville 2 hours (Full Service)

CURRENT USE:

Very low. Some hunting in fall (Deer/Turkey) November

AREA #9B

QUEMADO

RANGER DISTRICT

APPROXIMATE ACRES 5,750

ACCESS:

Roadless area. Road access to unit primitive and limited to east side  
No interior trails

TERRAIN:

Rough with short deep drainages.  
Mostly Pinyon-Juniper some mixed conifer at higher elevations  
Unusual rock formations, highly erosive

WATER FEATURES:

None

CHARACTERISTICS:

Campsites limited, small groups or individuals  
Cross country skills needed

OPPORTUNITIES:

Develop outdoor skills, viewing unique rock formations ("Funny Rocks")  
Photography

LOCATION:

Quemado 1/2 to 1 hour (Limited services)  
Springerville 2 hours (Full Services)

CURRENT USE:

Low, mostly viewing for pleasure and hunting

## ABOVE ACCESS POINTS REPRESENT

**36% of TOTAL ANNUAL R&D USE**

# IN GILA <sup>8</sup> WILDERNESS <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup>

# Granny Mtn. VABM 752 NATIONAL

# Wilderness Access Map

## GILA NATIONAL FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

### Management Emphasis:

Management emphasis will be directed towards protecting and restoring natural conditions, and maintaining the physical and biological characteristics of the wilderness environment in a near-natural condition, where the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable and where the wilderness generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

### Standards and Guidelines - Applicable to Visitor Use Management:

1. The Forest will continue to provide wilderness ethics awareness to the public in the form of written, verbal, and personal demonstrative contact.
2. Continue to provide Aldo Leopold and Gila Wilderness maps. Continue to provide no-trace, low impact camping, trip planning, and visitor use information on the written portion of the wilderness maps.
3. Outfitter/Guide permits will be issued on a case-by-case basis, according to public demand and demonstrated length of satisfactory service, until wilderness use capacities are established.
4. Where institutional objectives can be met outside of designated wilderness, permits will not be issued in wilderness areas.
5. Campsite reservations for Outfitter/Guides will not be made.
6. Outfitter/Guide caches of unused equipment, materials or camps may be permitted with District Ranger approval.
7. Establish the acceptable social and biological limits of change for the Aldo Leopold and Blue Range Wilderness and establish capacities in the third decade, with emphasis on social carrying capacity.
8. Establish the acceptable social and biological limits of change for the Gila Wilderness and establish capacities in the first decade.
9. Prepare implementation plans for all wilderness areas by the end of the first decade.
10. Indirect management techniques will be favored over regulatory techniques.
11. Maintain the present wilderness permit system. At the first ten year update, conduct a re-evaluation of the wilderness permit system to see if further implementation is warranted.
12. Maximum group size will be limited to 25 persons and/or 35 head of pack and saddle stock.

13. Current permitted recreation and livestock grazing use in support of Outfitter/Guide operations will be continued (Shelly, Campbell and Hulse). All other recreational and livestock grazing use will be permitted only during the approved trip plan period.

14. Denuded areas resulting from man's activities requiring rehabilitation will be seeded with native plant ground cover to protect.

15. Where possible, volunteer, Adopt-A-Trail, manpower programs, etc., will be utilized to augment funded wilderness programs.

16. Discourage floaters when water flow on the Gila River is below 50 CFS.

17. Participate with in-service, other governmental agencies, and out-service groups on wilderness research.

18. Organized recreation events such as runs, games, trail endurance rides, etc., whether competitive or non-competitive, will not be permitted.

19. No new places of permanent human habitation will be permitted unless specifically exempted by the Wilderness Act of 1964.

GILA WILDERNESS 1976 MANAGEMENT PLAN

General Management Direction:

1. Maintain an enduring system of high-quality wilderness.
2. Perpetuate and, where necessary, restore the wilderness resources.
3. Provide, to the extent consistent with 1 and 2, opportunities for public use, enjoyment, and understanding of wilderness, and the unique experiences dependent upon a wilderness setting.
4. Maintain the plants and animals indigenous to the area.
5. Accommodate and administer those uses or activities which are of the type generally prohibited by the Wilderness Act, but which are specifically expected by that act or subsequent establishing legislation in such a manner as to minimize their lasting impact on the wilderness resource and values, and so that the end results will provide optimum total benefits to the American people.
6. Maintain stable watersheds.
7. Determine visitor and livestock use capacities for homogeneous segments of the wilderness, in order to provide for balanced distribution of use and control over use where capacity is approached or exceeded.
8. Retain large portions of the wilderness in their present state as trail-less and essentially free from man's and domestic livestock influence.
9. Effectively balance the number and distribution of on-the-ground personnel needed for maintaining and protecting the wilderness.

Specific Management Direction - Applicable to Visitor Use Management:

1. Travel zones, or areas of homogeneous visitor use, will be delineated by October, 1976. This will be done by the District Rangers and Forest Recreation and Lands Staff.
2. From information gathered during the 1975 and 1976 use seasons, coupled with resource condition surveys and observation of use, capacities for each segment of the wilderness will be determined by Forest personnel by October, 1976.
3. Based on these determined capacities for use, each homogeneous segment will be assigned use limitations at or below capacity levels.
4. A mandatory permit system, allowing the gathering of more accurate travel zone use information, will be initiated in 1978 without restricting the use prior to implementing restrictions on numbers and travel routes.

5. Limitations on persons at one time using specific travel zones or length of stay per travel zone will be applied as needed following adoption of the permit system, but not before the 1979 use season.
6. To protect the wilderness resource, maximum group size will be limited to 25 persons and/or 35 head of pack and saddle stock, effective during the 1976 season.
7. Continue to permit commercial services provided by Outfitter/Guides with option to restrict or limit service in line with capacities for visitor use which are to be determined by October, 1976.
8. The Forest Outfitter and Guide Policy existing as a part of each permit will be revised to include management direction for operations within the wilderness. All regulations applying to individuals also apply to Outfitter/Guides.
9. When conflicts might exist between private use and Outfitter, the private user will normally be given first consideration.
10. Pack and saddle stock numbers and period of use specified in the permit may be adjusted as needed for wilderness resource protection.
11. Excessive numbers of stock, over that needed to provide for the number of accommodated visitor, will not be allowed.

PERSONAL CONTACTS

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